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...and, Leo FLIEG, after working two years for ENKI in a trustee position, allowed to assume responsibilities in connection with the Politburo.

Favored by the MOSCOW trials, Communist officials initiated persecutions of personalities of different political convictions, denouncing them as Gestapo agents. Nobody has voiced more unwarranted charges than the organizations of the Komintern and the Communist Party. In filing charges, Party headquarters was guided by political opportunism. These practices inevitably ended in the destruction of the organization.

Attempts at Self-Criticism and Reorientation of Communist Party Policies

The Politburo ordered me to stay in Russia and to prepare for the approaching congress. Under the prevailing circumstances, it was difficult to perform a satisfactory job. FIECK, as a member of the presidium of the ENKI, was preoccupied with drafting a report covering the period between the 6th and 7th congress of the Komintern. He did not find a moment's time to work on German problems. SCHULTE, FIECK's, and their men compiled material concerning German politics. MEYER and his wife bossed a secretariat of the Politburo established by himself. SCHUBERT, who replaced MEYER as representative of Germany within ENKI provided the latest information and took care that those belonging to this group were regularly furnished with ration cards, allowances, theater tickets, and coupons entitling them to buy in "Torgsin" shops (for foreigners and certain Soviet officials). LOITE and myself were not included in this circle. Both of us had to make ends meet on a daily allowance for one person only and to subsist on the lowest ration allocation.

For a few weeks I lectured in the German section of the Lenin School on "Experiences Learned in Underground Activities". SCHUBERT and BIRKENHAUER theorized on national questions. Somebody MEYER managed to place in the Russian press many articles on German problems by Politbureau members, thus not only procuring money but also publicity. MEYER was also the promoter of RADEL, who won some publicity with his book "The Trial". These men, along with SCHUBERT, LAHL, and FLOREN, formed a "brain trust". They won influence on the "German Central Newspaper", "International Literature" and "The Word", publications which recovered only slowly from this influence. MEYER, LAHL, BIRKENHAUER, and KNOTH wrote articles which were published under the better-known names of FLOREN, SCHUBERT, and SCHULTE. FIECK ordered his articles written by HILSCH and DAVID. I was deeply disgusted with these practices.

Some weeks before the opening of the congress, FLOREN, SCHUBERT, and SCHULTE realized that they would have to give information concerning activities of the party within Nazi organizations. They did not mind twisting and slanting their reports, but were afraid of being cornered by delegates from Germany or by myself. Therefore they dispatched to BERLIN the journalist HOFFMANN who was loyal to them. He was told to get together with FIECK, who was known by ULBRICHT and BAHLEN and lived in BERLIN, and collect all available information on the overall situation, the structure, and working methods of the Nazi organizations. SCHUBERT was anxious to get reports proving that it was impossible to organize opposition within the German Labor Front and that all attempts at this had been useless or detrimental. SCHUBERT and his group within the Politbureau intended to justify their policy on the basis of these reports. This special mission turned out to be very burdensome for FIECK, to whom ULBRICHT and BAHLEN had assigned the duty to furnish political and economic information. In the performance of this job, he was trapped by the SS. FIECK was sentenced to death, HOFFMANN to 15 years in the penitentiary.

The atmosphere in MOSCOW was somewhat cleared by the arrival of delegates from Germany. They were cared for by the Middle European Secretariat of ENKI and billeted in off limits quarters to guarantee their personal security and to avoid too close contact with Politbureau members hunting for possible converts. FLIEG and SCHULTE gave me permission to visit some old friends because they knew I did not belong to any group. But it also became clear soon that contrary to the political problems were not to be settled by facts alone. As the last group of German functionaries known as the "group of the unaffiliated", they were to assume leadership within the Communist Party. FLIEG, SCHULTE, and myself were named as leading representatives.

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